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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/818,284	03/27/2001	Steven S. Homer	COMP:0204	9244
7590	12/30/2003		EXAMINER	
Robert A. Van Someren Fletcher, Yoder & Van Someren P.O. Box 692289 Houston, TX 77269-2289			MAI, RIJUE	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2182	5
DATE MAILED: 12/30/2003				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No. <b>09/818,284</b>	Applicant(s) <b>Homer et al.</b>
Examiner <b>Rijue Mai</b>	Art Unit <b>2182</b>

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

1)  Responsive to communication(s) filed on Oct 20, 2003

2a)  This action is FINAL. 2b)  This action is non-final.

3)  Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

4)  Claim(s) 1-50 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above, claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.

6)  Claim(s) 1-50 is/are rejected.

7)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.

8)  Claims \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

9)  The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)  The drawing(s) filed on Mar 27, 2001 is/are a)  accepted or b)  objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11)  The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a)  approved b)  disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12)  The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13)  Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)  All b)  Some\* c)  None of:

1.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.

3.  Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14)  Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

a)  The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15)  Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

### Attachment(s)

1)  Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

4)  Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_

2)  Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

5)  Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

3)  Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_

6)  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## DETAILED ACTION

### Response to Amendment

1. This action is responsive to the Amendment filed on 10/24/2003.

### Status of the Claims

2. Of the original claims 1-50 are under prosecution in this application.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(e) the invention was described in-  
(1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effect under this subsection of a national application published under section 122(b) only if the international application designating the United States was published under Article 21(2)(a) of such treaty in the English language; or  
(2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that a patent shall not be deemed filed in the United States for the purposes of this subsection based on the filing of an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a).

4. Claims 1-50 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Reid US pat.

5,982,614

As per claims 1, 17, 28, 34, 43, Reid teaches a port configuration (200, docking station) method and system for a computer device ( see abstract, 120), comprising: a plurality of ports (ports 132...) configured for communication between a plurality of electronic devices (130... )

comprising the computing device (120) and at least one peripheral device (any of one 130) ( see col 4, lines 1-6, lines 33-42, col 5, lines 4-45, Fig 1); a plurality of connectors disposed adjacent the plurality of ports, wherein at least two ports of the plurality of ports share a common connector of the plurality of connectors ( see col 7, lines 44-64, Fig 3).

Referring to claims 2-16, 18-27, 29-33, 35-42, and 44-50, Reid further teaches the system and method, wherein the last two ports are externally disposed on the computing device ( see col 4, lines 25-32); wherein the last two ports are externally disposed on a portable computing device ( see col 2, lines 59-61, col 4, lines 15-17, Fig 1); wherein the portable computing device comprising a laptop computer , a palmtop computer ( see col 4, lines 15-33); wherein the last two ports are disposed on the peripheral device ( see col 4, lines 37-42); wherein the peripheral device comprising a portable memory device ( see col 5, lines 46-56) ; wherein at least one of the plurality of ports comprises a plurality of pins ( see col 6, lines 23-27); a serial port, a parallel port ( see col 5, line 49); comprises a midi/game port ( see col 5, lines 55-57, Fig 1); a monitor port ( Fig 1); a docking port ( see col 4, lines 43-55); wherein each of the at least two ports has two of the connectors, one of which is the common connector ( see col 7, lines 52-55, Fig 3); wherein the common connector is configured for mutually exclusive use by one port of the at least two ports for coupling the one port to a desired electronic device ( see col 7, lines 55-64); wherein the plurality of connectors comprises threaded receptacles configured to receive screw members adjacent a communication cable ( see col 8, lines 1-14).

*Response to Arguments*

5. Applicants' arguement filed 10/24/2003 have been fully considered, but they are not persuasive.

6. Applicant's arguement are primarily directed to the contention that the cited references does not suggest or teach the claimed invention as a plurality of ports ... a plurality of connectors *disposed adjacent* to plurality of ports and at least two ports of the plurality of ports share a *common connector of the* plurality of connectors . In response, the examiner's cited references Reid teach the invention as claimed. Reid teaches a plurality of ports (ports 132...) And each port has to have a connection devices attached (such as a connector or adaptor) to associate with communication with other devices, therefore, each connector has disposed adjacent to the port to connect with the cable to other device ( see Fig 1). Furthermore, Reid teaches the docking means has a first, second and third connectors, the first connector has means for coupling to the plurality I/O ports.... and the **third connector** has means for **coupling to I/O ports 132** (Fig 3 shown more than two ports) of a plurality of electronic devices 130 ( see col 7, **lines 47-54**) . That is, Reid did teach the limitations as claimed .

### *Conclusion*

7. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after

the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

9.. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Rijue Mai** whose telephone number is (703) 308-7098

The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 7:00 AM to 4:30 PM, and alternate Friday Eastern Time. The examiner can also be E-mailed at **Mai.Rijue@uspto.gov**.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr.Jeffrey Gaffin, can be reached on (703) 308-3301.

10. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

**Any response to this action should be mailed to:**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

**Or faxed to:**

(703) 746-7239, (for formal communications intended for entry)

**Or:**

(703) 746-7240, (for informal or draft communications, please label

“PROPOSED” or “DRAFT”)

EXAMINER



JEFFREY GAFFIN  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100

Rijue Mai

Art Unit 2182

December 19, 2003